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KT photo | **Kelly Lafferty**

**CRASH:** An accident occurred at the intersection of U.S. 31 and 300 North Thursday night when a car smashed into the back of a semi. The female passenger was airlifted to a Fort Wayne hospital and police say she was talking when they pulled her out of the vehicle.

## **Accident leaves car wedged under semi**

**Driver was airlifted to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.**

*By Mike Fletcher and Rob Burgess*  
**Tribune staff writers**

The driver of a tan, four-door Buick that ran into the back of a semi-trailer Thursday evening on U.S. 31 has been identified as 40-year old Natalie Douglas of Kokomo.

Kokomo Police reported that Douglas was driving southbound on U.S. 31 near Smith Road at around 9:20 p.m. and struck the back of a semi-trailer. U.S. 31 southbound was closed just north of the intersection shortly thereafter.

After the accident was reported, a Samaritan medical helicopter was immediately put on standby. Flares were deployed in effort to clear a landing space in the southbound lane. The helicopter touched down just after 10 p.m. The Kokomo Fire Department extricated Douglas from her vehicle and she was immediately air lifted to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, where she is listed in stable condition.

First responders said Douglas was responsive as she was removed from the scene. She appeared to be the only passenger in the car.

The truck driver, Gary Schultz of Tennessee, was not injured, Maj. Brian Seldon reported Friday.

The Indiana State Police along with the Howard County Sheriff Department and the Howard County Emergency Management Agency assisted in the investigation. The exact cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Kokomo Police Department. Anyone with information regarding the accident is asked to contact the Kokomo Police Department at 765-459-5101.